

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1.-11. (Canceled)
12. (Original) An apparatus for fitting a hearing aid, comprising:
  - a memory having a first population stored therein, the first population comprising a plurality of parent sets;
  - a toggle device for toggling between a plurality of pairs of the plurality of parent sets, each of the plurality of pairs having a first and second set;
  - a select indicator for selecting a preferred one of the first and second set in the each of the plurality of pairs;
  - a genetic algorithm operator for performing one of mutation and crossover on at least one set of the plurality of parent sets thereby producing a child set;
  - a genetic algorithm for replacing one of the plurality of parent sets in the first population with the child set thereby forming a second population wherein the toggle device toggles between another pair of sets, the another pair being selected from the second population;
  - a processor for converging the sets of the plurality of pairs and the another pair to a single solution set; and
  - a communications link for interfacing with the hearing aid.
13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the processor ranks a hierarchy of the plurality of parent sets.
14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the processor assigns a probability of selection by the select indicator to the sets of the plurality of pairs and the another pair.

15 (Original) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the genetic algorithm decides which of the plurality of parent sets becomes the first and second sets for each the plurality of pairs.

16. (Original) A hearing aid fitted by the apparatus according to claim 12.

17-26. (Canceled)

27. (Original) A method of fitting a hearing aid, comprising the steps:  
preparing a first population of a plurality of parent sets;  
presenting a first pair from the parent sets, the first pair comprising a first and second set and being presented with assistance of the hearing aid;  
selecting a first preference between the first and second sets of the first pair;  
operating on at least one set of the plurality of parent sets to obtain a child set, the child set being one of a mutation and crossover;  
replacing one of the plurality of parent sets of the first population with the child set to form a second population;  
presenting a second pair, the second pair comprising the child set and a third set, the third set being selected from the second population but not being the child set;  
selecting a second preference between the child set and the third set of the second pair;  
and  
converging on a solution set, the solution set being one of the first, second, third and child sets.

28. (Original) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of ranking a hierarchy of the plurality of parent sets.

29. (Original) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of assigning a probability of selection in one of the selecting steps to the first, second, third and child sets.

30. (Original) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of deciding which set of the plurality of parent sets becomes the first and second sets of the first pair.

31. (Original) A method of fitting a hearing aid, comprising the steps:  
    providing a hearing aid having an initial prescription;  
    preparing a population of a plurality of parent sets, each of the parent sets having at least one parent parameter;  
    presenting a first pair of sets from the parent sets, the first pair comprising a first and second set and being presented with assistance of the hearing aid;  
    selecting a first preference between the first and second sets of the first pair;  
    presenting a second pair of sets from the parent sets, the second pair comprising a third and fourth set;  
    selecting a second preference between the third and fourth sets of the second pair;  
    operating on one set of the plurality of parent sets to obtain a child set, the child set being one of a mutation and crossover of the one set, the child set having at least one child parameter;  
    replacing one of the plurality of parent sets of the first population with the child set to form a second population;  
    presenting a third pair of sets, the third pair comprising the child set and a fifth set, the fifth set being selected from the second population but not being the child set;  
    selecting a third preference between the child set and the fifth set;  
    converging on a solution set, the solution set being one of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and child sets; and  
    updating the initial prescription with one of the at least one parent and child parameters.

32. (Original) A method of using a genetic algorithm in a system having a first population of a plurality of parent sets, comprising the steps:  
    presenting a first pair of sets from the parent sets, the first pair comprising a first and second set, the genetic algorithm selecting which of the parent sets becomes the first and second set;

indicating a preference to the genetic algorithm between the first and second sets of the first pair;

operating on at least one set of the plurality of parent sets with a genetic algorithm operator to obtain a child set, the child set being one of a mutation and crossover;

replacing one of the plurality of parent sets of the first population with the child set to form a second population;

presenting a second pair, the second pair comprising the child set and a third set, the third set being selected from the second population but not being the child set, the genetic algorithm selecting which set of the second population becomes the third set;

indicating a second preference to the genetic algorithm between the child set and the third set of the second pair; and

converging on a solution set, the solution set being one of the first, second, third and child sets.

33. (Original) A computer readable medium having executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 32.

34. (Original) A method of perceptually tuning a system using a genetic algorithm, comprising the steps:

providing a system an initial setting;

preparing a population of a plurality of parent sets, each of the parent sets having at least one parent parameter;

presenting a first pair of sets from the parent sets, the first pair comprising a first and second set, the genetic algorithm selecting which of the plurality of parent sets becomes the first and second set;

indicating a first preference to the genetic algorithm between the first and second sets of the first pair;

presenting a second pair of sets from the parent sets, the second pair comprising a third and fourth set, the genetic algorithm selecting which of the plurality of parent sets becomes the third and fourth sets;

indicating a second preference to the genetic algorithm between the third and fourth sets of the second pair;

operating on one set of the plurality of parent sets with a genetic algorithm operator to obtain a child set, the child set being one of a mutation and crossover of the one set, the child set having at least one child parameter;

replacing one of the plurality of parent sets of the first population with the child set to form a second population;

presenting a third pair of sets, the third pair comprising the child set and a fifth set, the fifth set being selected from the second population but not being the child set, the genetic algorithm selecting which set of the second population becomes the fifth set;

indicating a third preference to the genetic algorithm between the child set and the fifth set;

converging on a solution set, the solution set being one of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and child sets; and

updating the initial setting with one of the at least one parent and child parameters selected from the solution set.

35. (Original) A computer readable medium having executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 34.

36-43. (Canceled)

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein each parent set of the plurality of parent sets comprises more than one parameter.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the communications link is a wireless link.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a flash memory for storing a hierarchy of the plurality of parent sets.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the toggle device toggles between a second pair of sets selected from the second population.

48. (New) The method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of ranking a hierarchy of the plurality of parent sets.

49. (New) A computer readable medium having executable instructions for performing the steps of claim 31.